E. Joaquin Esquivel was appointed to the California State Water Resources Control Board by Governor Jerry Brown in March 2017, and appointed Chair by Governor Gavin Newsom in February 2019. Previously, he served as assistant secretary for federal water policy at the California Natural Resources Agency in the governor's Washington, D.C. office, where he facilitated the development of policy priorities between the agency, the Governor's Office, the California Congressional delegation, and federal stakeholder agencies. For more than eight years prior to that he worked for US Senator Barbara Boxer of California, as a legislative staff member covering the agriculture, Native American, water, oceans, and nutrition portfolios, in addition to being the director of information and technology. He was born and raised in California's Coachella Valley. He holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in English.